

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4722

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12283

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ID

SUBJ: HARIMAN SIREGAR TRIAL: 33RD-37TH SESSIONS

REF: JAKARTA 11857

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

BEGIN SUMMARY: SEVENTH WEEK OF SIREGAR TRIAL SEPT 23-28

HEARD FOUR UNIVERSITY INDONESIA WITNESSES INCLUDING TWO

MEMBERS OF STUDENT DISCUSSION GROUP, AS WELL AS WRITTEN

TESTIMONY OF THREE YOGJAKARTA WITNESSES. WITNESSES

GENERALLY ONLY CONFIRMED PREVIOUS TESTINOMY, WITH EXCEP-

TION OF STATEMENTS BY TWO WITNESSES ALLEGING OUTSIDE

MANIPULATION OF JANUARY 15 EVENTS (INCLUDING STATEMENT

THAT MURTOPO AIDE LIM BIAN KIE PLANNED PHYSICAL DISRUPTION

OF STUDENT RALLY). PROSECUTION PRESENTATION NOW NEARLY

CONCLUDED, AND DEFENSE REPORTEDLY MAY NOT CALL ANY

WITNESSES; SIREGAR TRIAL THUS VIRTUALLY OVER, BUT VERDICT

REPORTEDLY MAY BE WITHHELD UNTIL JANUARY 15 TRIALS

COMPLETED. IN MEANTIME DEATH OF SIREGAR'S FATHER OVER

WEEKEND HAS COMPOUNDED DEFENDENT'S PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES

AND CAUSED POSTPONEMENT OF FIRST TRIAL SESSIONS OF CURRENT

WEEK. END SUMMARY END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1. SIREGAR TRIAL HEARD TESTIMONY OF SEVEN WITNESSES IN FIVE SESSIONS DURING WEEK OF SEPT 23(FRIDAY SESSION CANCELLED DUE TO FASTING MONTH). FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF TESTIMONY BASED ON PRESS REPORTS EXCEPT AS NOTED:

2. CONTINUED TESTIMONY OF PROVIOUS WITNESS EKO DJATMIKO SOEKARSONO (UI STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER) SEPT 23 LARGELY REPEATED PATTERN OF TESTIMONY OF PREVIOUS PRO-SIREGAR STUDENT WITNESSES, INCLUDING STATEMENTS THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD VARIOUS SIREGAR SPEECHES, IRRITATION ON PART OF JUDGE AT THESE STATEMENTS, AND OBJECTIONS FROM PROSECUTOR (SUSTAINED BY JUDGE) TO DEFENSE QUESTIONS CONCERNING ANTI-SIREGAR STUDENT FACTION. ONLY NEW ELEMENT IN EKO TESTIMONY WAS STATEMENT THAT ON JANUARY 15 STUDENTS RETURNING FROM RALLY AT TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS WERE FORCED BY POLICE BLOCKADES TO TRANSIT AREA WHERE RIOTING TAKING PLACE, RATHER THAN ROUTE ORIGINALLY ORDERED BY SIREGAR. EKO OPINED THAT REROUTING OF CONVOY WAS DELIBERATE, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE.

3. TESTIMONY OF YESY CONINCA (DETAINED JAKARTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADER) ON SEPT 24 FOCUSED ON INVOLVEMENT OF NON-UNIVERSITY YOUTH IN JANUARY 15 RALLY. MONINCA CONFIRMED PREVIOUS TESTIMONY OF JUSUF A R THAT SIRGAR HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATION BY HIGH SHOOOL GROUPS BUT THAT REQUEST WAS INITIATED BY GROUPS THEMSELVES AND THAT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REMAINED UNDER CONTROL OF THEIR OWN LEADERS. MONINCA ALSO STATED THAT ON AFTERNOON JANURARY 14 HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY JAKARTA MILITARY SECURITY/INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS TO PREVENT STUDENT RALLY PLANNED FOR JANUARY 15 AND, WHEN HE STATED HE POWERLESS TO DO SO, WAS ASKED AT LEAST TOURGE STUDENTS NOT TO CLASH WITH SOLDIERS. MONINCA STATED THAT AT SAME MEETING HE HAD PASSED TO OFFICERS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM A TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY STUDENT THAT GOLKAR FIGURE AND OPSUS ACTIVIST LIM BIAN KIE PLANNED TO STAGE A "TERROR" ACTION AGAINST THE STUDENTS ON JANURAY 15; MONINCA SAID OFFICERS TOOK NOTE OF HIS REPORT AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT. END UNCLASSIFIED BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE (COMMENT: LIM BIAN KIE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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CLOSE ALI MURTOPO ADVISOR AND BRAIN-TRUSTER. ALTHOUGH THIS FACT NOT BROUGHT OUT IN MONINCA TESTIMONY, IN APPARENT DEPARTURE FROM PATTERN FOLLOWED TO DATE WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL CONNECTIONS OF ANTI-SIREGAR FIGURES, NO OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED BY PROSECUTOR OR JUDGE TO IDENTIFICATION OF LIM WITH GOVERNMENT PARTY GOLKAR OR WITH MURTOPO-HEADED POLITICAL ACTION GROUP OPSUS). END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. WITNESS DORODJATUN KUNTJOROJAKTI (DTAINED UI ECON-OMICS LECTURER) WAS QUESTIONED SEPT 25 ON UI STUDENT DISCUSSION GROUP AND POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN GROUP'S ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HIS OWN LECTURES AND STUDENT PROTESTS AND PETITIONS. DORODJATUN DENIED ANY CONNECTION AND DENIED LECTURING ON SUBJECTS COVERED IN PETITION. FINAL WITNESS OF WEEK, DRS SJACHRIR, SECRETARY OF DISCUSSION GROUP AND PRIVATE ASSISTANT TO DETAINED UI ECONOMICS PROFESSOR (EX PSI MEMBER AND SIREGAR'S FATHER IN LAW) PROF SARBINI SUMAWINATA, WAS QUESTIONED SEPT 28 ON SAME SUBJECTS AND GAVE SIMILAR RESPONSES.

5. ONLY OTHER TESTIMONY PRESENTED DURING WEEK WAS WRITTEN STATEMENTS FROM THREE YOGYAKARTA WITNESSES, WHICH ADDED LITTLE NEW INFORMATION. ONE OF THREE, SLAMET EFFENDI YUSUF OF YOGYA ISLAMIC ISNTITUTE STUDENT COUNCIL, WHOSE STATEMENT SUPPORTED PREVIUOS TESTIMONY THAT SIREGAR PRO-POSALS THAT YOGYA STUDENTS JOIN IN PROTEST MOVEMENT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN, WAS TO HAVE APPEARED IN PERSON BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO AND WILL APPEAR TO COMPLETE TESTIMONY LATER. OTHER TWO WILL NOT APPEAR IN PERSON, IN LINE WITH DEFENSE SUGGESTION ACCEPTEDBY PROSECUTOR THAT TO SAVE TIME REMAINING WITNESSES NOT BE HEARD IN PERSON UNLESS NECESSARY. ACCORDING TO PROSECUTION, ONLY TWO MORE PROSECUTION WITNESSES REMAIN TO BE CALLED, PLUS COMPLETION OF TESTIMONY BY SJACHRIR AND SLAMET AND PRESEN-TATION OF TWO OTHER WRITTEN STATEMENTS. END UNCLASSIFIED
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6. TRIAL MAY WIND UP SOON AFTER COMPLETION OF PROSECU-TION PRESENTATION. ACCORDING TO STUDENT SOURCES, DEFENSE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT NOW PLANNING TO PRESENT ANY WITNESSES (ORIGINAL PLANS REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR TEN DEFENSE WITNESSED). TWO REASONS MENTIONED FOR CHANGE IN DEFENSE PLANS ARE 1) DETAINEE WITNESSES HAVE ALREADY GIVEN AS MUCH SUPPORT TO SIREGAR CASE AS CAN BE EXPECTED AND 2) JUDGE'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW DEFENSE TO PURSUE POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF ANTI-SIREGAR WITNESSES LIMITS USEFULNESS OF ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY BY DEFENSE WITNESSES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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7. HOWEVER, VERDICT MAYNOT BE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY AT END OF TRIAL. BAKIN SOURCES HAVE TOLD AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY THAT VERDICTS WILL ONLY BE ANNOUNCED AFTER ALL JANUARY 15 TRIALS COMPLETED AND ALL EVIDENCE RELATING TO CONSPIRACY THEORY HAS BEEN PRESENTED. TOTAL PROCESS COULD TAKE A

YEAR OR MORE. ALTHOUGH RESULTING DELAY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
BE CONSIDERED BY MANY AS UNFAIR TREATMENT FOR SIREGAR
AND OTHER EARLY DEFENDENTS, GOI MAY CALCULATE THAT THIS
PROCEDURE WILL PERMIT BUILDING OF BEST POSSIBLE CASE
AGAINST ALL DEFENDENTS AND WILL GIVE TIME FOR ALREADY
SLACKENING INTEREST IN TRIAL ONPART OF GENERAL PUBLIC
TO DECLINE TO POINT WHER CHANCES OF ADVERSE REACTION
TO SENTENCES MINIMIZED. END CONFIDENTIAL
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

8. ON NIGHT OF SATURDAY SEPT 28, SIREGAR'S FATHER
DIED OF LIVER ILLNESS (HAVING BEEN HOSPITALIZED SINCE
EARLY IN TRIAL). MONDAY TRIAL SESSION POSTPONED FOR
FUNERAL; TUESDAY SESSION ALSO POSTPONED WHEN SIREGAR
BROKE DOWN AFTER JUDEGE EXPRESSED CONDOLENCES AND ASKED
JUDGE FOF EXTRA DAY TO RECOVER AND TO VISIT GRAVES OF TWIN
CHILDREN LOST WHEN HIS WIFE MISCARRIED JUST PRIOR TO START
OF TRIAL IN AUGUST. END UNCLASSIFIED BEGIN LIMITED
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DURING PERIOD OF TRIAL UNDOUBTEDLY FURTHER BUILDING
PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR HIM, AND AT SAME TIME INEVITABLY
CREATING IMPRESSION THAT TRIAL AND THREAT OF DEATH
PENALTY EXACERBATED MEDICAL PROBLEMS OF BOTH WIFE AND
FATHER).
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